(c) whether Government have any plan to give assistance and incentive to such organizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been providing financial assistance to the Council for Rehabilitation of Widows, Orphans, handicapped and Old Persons (Militancy Hit Victims), Government of Jammu & Kashmir under their scheme 'General Grant-in-aid Programme for Financial Assistance in the Field of Social Defence' for rehabilitation of widows, orphans, handicapped and old persons (militancy hit victims). The Council has been making further releases to Deputy Commissioners to carry out welfare measures in their respective districts.

The Central Social Welfare Board is also providing grant-in-aid under the Rajiv Gandhi Creche Scheme to voluntary organisations to run creche centres for the children of working mothers in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) and c) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is assisting Non-Governmental Organisations/State Governments under the "Assistance to Homes for Infant and Young Children for Promotion In-country Adoption" scheme for promoting in-country adoption of children. All these organisations including Seva-bharati facilitate children to be placed in adoption irrespective of religion.

Women and child protection units

†2097. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to constitute women and child protection units at district level in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main characteristics of this plan;

(c) the main functions of the said units and the names of supervisory officers of women and child protection units at district level; and

(d) the details of annual Budget for this plan?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 has been amended recently in which a new Section 62A has been added for constituting of a Child Protection Unit for every State as well as for every district. Section 62A provides that such Child Protection Units shall be constituted by appointing officers and other employees to take up matters relating to children in need of care and protection and juveniles in conflict with law with a view to ensure the implementation of this Act including the establishment and maintenance of homes, notification of competent authorities in relation to these children and their rehabilitation and co-ordination with various official and non-official agencies concerned. No such women protection unit has been provided for in the said Act.

(d) The Working Group on the Development of Children for the Eleventh Plan has recommended a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme' which will, *inter alia*, have a component for setting up of such child protection units. The annual budget for such schemes based upon their disaggregated requirements is being worked out in consultation with Planning Commission.

Malnutrition of women and children

2098. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether over half of women and children of the country are suffering from severe malnutrition and chronic undernourishment;

(b) whether there is any proposal to distribute foodgrains free of cost to women and children suffering from malnutrition; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to wipe out malnutrition and undernourishment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The National level data on prevalence of malnutrition among women and children is compiled through the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS). The survey is conducted under the stewardship of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. As per the data available from NFHS-2 (1998-99), 47% of children